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Michigan House approves Sen. Kuipers' manufacturing czar bill

LANSING — The Michigan House today passed a measure to create a manufacturing “czar,” allowing the governor a second chance to approve the measure, Sen. Wayne Kuipers, sponsor of Senate Bill 841, announced.

SB 841 would create a “czar” position within the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth to focus on creating and retaining manufacturing jobs. The position is needed to ensure the regulatory and economic development arms of all state departments are doing what they can do help the manufacturing industry.

The governor vetoed a similar bill earlier this year.

“Once again the Legislature is sending the governor a measure that would help manufacturers provide additional job opportunities for Michigan workers,” said Kuipers, R-Holland. “I don’t understand why the governor would veto this effort again while at the same time calling for the president to create the same position at the national level. If it’s important enough for the country, then certainly it’s important enough for Michigan.”

Michigan’s manufacturing industry has been hit hard by the economic downtown and sometimes unfair global competition. Kuipers said the state must provide manufacturers with the opportunities they need to survive.

“Continually pointing fingers at Washington and wailing ‘Woe is me’ is not going to help Michigan’s economy recover,” Kuipers said. “We need to get busy in Michigan and get our residents back to work.”

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